

west direction through the present counties of Berkeley and Morgan, and reached Little Cacapon Creek about six miles above its mouth, in what is now Hampshire County. Descending this stream to its junction with the Potomac, the army encamped for the night, and the next day, it crossed the latter river into Maryland, having spent five days in marching through the eastern part of West Virginia.

8. Arrival of the Army at Fort Cumberland.—Leaving the "Ferry Fields" where the army crossed the Potomac, the march continued along the north side of the North Branch of that river, General Braddock proceeding in a chariot which he had purchased of Governor Sharpe, of Maryland. The army arrived at Fort Cumberland on the 10th day of May. This structure, named in honor of the Duke of Cumberland, was erected in 1754-55, by Colonel Innes of South Carolina, commanding an independent company from his own Colony, and two similar organizations from the Colony of New York. Here, on the present site of Cumberland City, Maryland, Braddock's army went into camp.

9. The March into the Wilderness.—By May 19th, the entire force destined for the expedition, was collected at Fort Cumberland, and consisted of the 44th and 48th regiments, each numbering 700 men; 30 sailors; 1,209 Colonial troops; 150 Indians and a train of artillery. There were 150 wagons and 2,000 horses. The 44th regiment was commanded by Sir Peter Halkett, and the 48th by Colonel Thomas Dunbar. Patrick McKellar was the chief military engineer of the

expedition, and Sir John St. Clair quartermaster-general. On June 7th, the first division, under Sir Peter Halkett, left Fort Cumberland and on the 8th, the entire force took up the line of march, the objective point being Fort Duquesne.

10. The Army in the Monongahela Valley.—Lofty mountains towered on every hand and so great were the difficulties of the march, that after ten days the army was only thirty miles west of Fort Cumberland. Braddock seemed to think that his engineers should bridge every little stream and cut away every bluff that obstructed the way. Washington, greatly discouraged, succeeded in securing a change. The army was divided. The general advanced with 1,200 chosen men, and Sir Peter Halkett as brigadier, Lieutenant-Colonel Gage—afterward General Gage of the Revolution—Lieutenant-Colonel Burton and Major Sparks, leaving Colonel Dunbar with the remainder of the troops and the artillery and baggage, to follow on as rapidly as possible. It was the evening of July 8th when the English columns, for the second time, reached the Monongahela river at a point ten miles distant from Fort Duquesne.

11. The News at Fort Duquesne.—From the time the army left Fort Cumberland, scouts hung upon its front and rear and carried news of its advance to Fort Duquesne, where all was alarm and excitement. Count de Mordaunt, the French commander, prepared to evacuate the fort; but Beaujeu, the second in command, proposed to go out and fight the English in the woods. A thousand savage warriors lounged around the walls

of Fort Duquesne. To these Beaujeau appealed Chiefs gathered their warriors, who, to the number of 600, accompanied by 250 French and Canadians fully armed, left the fort and marched away beneath the midsummer shades of the Monongahela Valley.

12. The Slaughter of Braddock's Army.—It was July 9th, 1755, and at the same time that the French and Indians left the fort, Braddock's army was crossing the river. Once across, the order to march was given, but scarcely were the columns in motion when Gordon, one of the engineers, saw the French and Indians bounding through the forests, and at once, a deadly fire was poured in upon the English columns. The Grenadiers returned it and Beaujeau fell dead, but Dumas, the second in command, rallied his forest warriors and for three dreadful hours, a storm of leaden hail was poured upon the beleaguered army. At the end of this time, of the 1,200 men who crossed the Monongahela, 67 officers and 714 privates were killed or wounded.

13. The Retreat of the Shattered Army.—General Braddock was mortally wounded, and Washington, collecting the remnant of the Virginians, covered the retreat of the shattered army. On the fourth day General Braddock died and was buried in the road near Fort Necessity. When Colonel Dunbar received the news, his troops were seized with a panic. Disorder and confusion reigned, and the retreat degenerated into a rout, which continued until the struggling companies reached Fort Cumberland. From there Colonel Dunbar marched the regulars by way of

Winchester, to Philadelphia, and Washington with the surviving Virginians, marched across what is now the eastern part of West Virginia, to Winchester. Thus ended in failure the campaign of 1755.

14. West Virginia Settlements After Braddock's Defeat.—The Indians, instigated by the French, now waged a relentless warfare against the Virginia frontier, and many West Virginia pioneers fell victims to savage butchery, whilst almost the entire population was forced to remain closely confined in places of safety. Of these, Fort Pleasant stood on the bank of the South Branch of the Potomac, one and a half miles above what is known as The Trough, now in Hardy county; Edwards' Fort was located on the west side of Cacapon river, in Hampshire county, within a mile of where the road leading from Winchester to Romney, crosses that stream; Furman's Fort was in Hampshire county, on the South Branch, between the present site of Romney and Hanging Rocks, while Williams' Fort was situated about four miles farther down the river; Fort Evans stood a short distance south of the present site of Martinsburg; Ashby's Fort was on Patterson's Creek, in what is now Mineral county, as was also Cox's Fort, the latter being distant twenty-five miles from Fort Cumberland.

15. French and Indians Attack Edwards' Fort.—On April 18th, 1756, a large body of French and Indians, having traversed the entire extent of West Virginia, appeared before Edwards' Fort in Hampshire county. Captain John Mercer with forty men marched out to attack them, and when a short

distance from the fort, came upon the enemy in ambush. A destructive fusillade was poured in upon the Virginians, sixteen of whom fell at the first fire. The slaughter continued until but six of the forty who left the fort, returned to it. Colonel George Washington, with a small force, was at Winchester, twenty miles away. He wrote Lord Fairfax, commandant of the Hampshire county militia, the day of the attack, and urged him to raise a force at once to relieve Edwards' Fort, and gave it as his opinion that unless ammunition was supplied to the beleaguered garrison that night, all would be slaughtered.

16. The Declaration of War.—Notwithstanding the existence of hostilities for more than two years, a formal declaration of war was not made by England



ROBERT DINWIDDIE.*

until 1756. On August 7th of that year, Governor Dinwiddie made formal proclamation thereof and copies of the same were sent to the troops on the frontier, a number of whom were stationed at Edwards' Fort and other points in West Virginia. The Governor's order required the commander to

have his troops drawn up in line when the Declara-

*Robert Dinwiddie, a prominent character in American history, because he was the chief executive officer of Virginia during the French and Indian war, was a Scotsman, and was born in 1693. He was appointed a collector of customs in the Island of Bermuda in 1737, and eleven years later, secured the appointment of Sur-

tion of War should be read at the head of the column. Volleys of small arms were then fired for the health of his majesty and a successful war. Thus was proclaimed among the West Virginia hills a declaration of war by the English Parliament against a sister kingdom in Europe.

17. The Big Sandy River Expedition.—In 1755 an expedition commanded by Major Andrew Lewis was undertaken from Virginia against the Shawnee towns at the mouth of the Scioto river and near that of the Great Kanawha; that nation then being in alliance with the French. The proposed line of march was by way of the valley of the Big Sandy river. The troops—235 Virginians and 130 Cherokee warriors—rendezvoused at Fort Frederick, on New river, early in February, 1756.

18. Westward March of the Expedition.—February 19th, the army began the mid-winter march to the Ohio river, two hundred miles away. The route lay through the present Virginia counties of Pulaski, Wythe, and Tazewell, by way of Bear Garden, on the North Fork of Holston river; Burk's Garden, now fifteen miles north-east of Tazewell Court-house; and thence across the upper

viceroy-General of Customs, of the Southern Ports of the Continent of America. He was commissioned a Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, July 20th, 1751, and with his wife and two daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, he arrived in the Colony November 20th following. The period of his accession as executive of the Colony was one of momentous passage in its history, for events speedily took place which changed the history and geography of a Continent. After more than seven years of faithful service, he was succeeded by Francis Fauquier, and returned to England, where he died July 2nd, 1770.

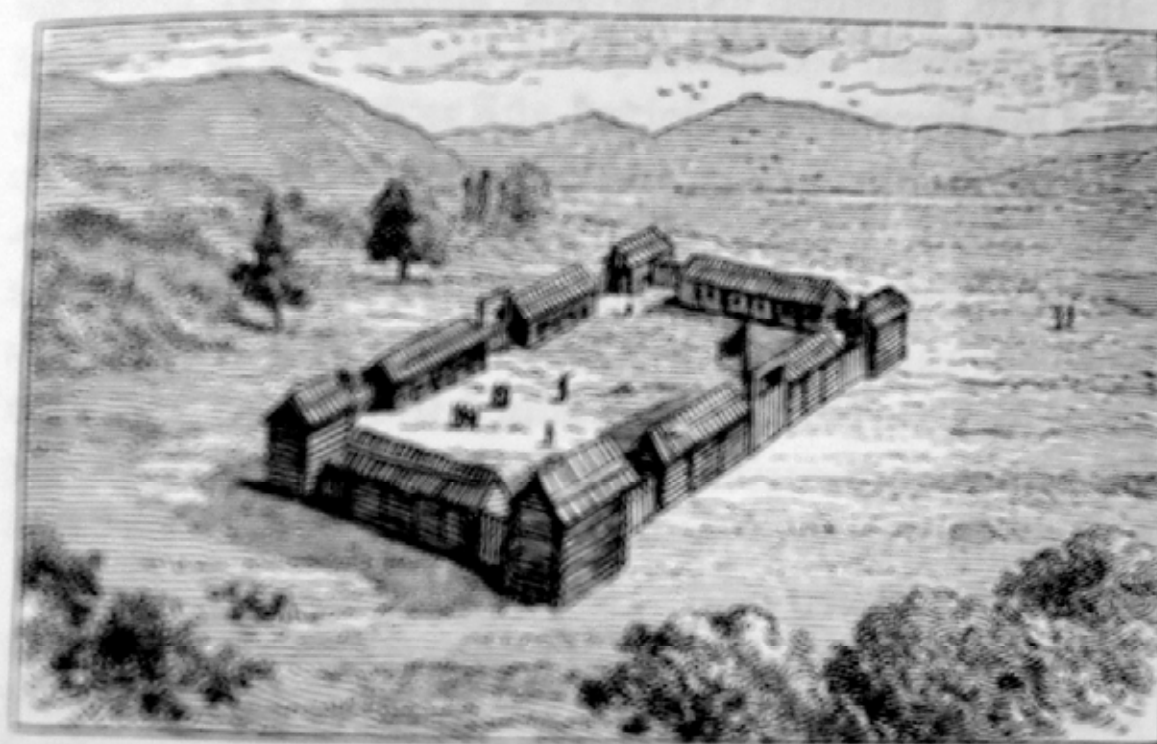
tributaries of Clinch river, through one of the most beautiful and romantic regions of the Appalachian System.

19. The Army in the Valley of Tug River.—On the 26th, the army passed through a gap in Big Stone Ridge, and reached the source of Horse-Pen creek, the upper tributary of the Dry Fork of Tug river, and encamped in what is now Big Creek Magisterial District, McDowell county, where it spent its first night on the soil of West Virginia. Thence the march was down the Dry Fork to its confluence with the North Fork of Tug river, the principal tributary of the Big Sandy. The encampment here was on the site of the present Iaeger Station, on the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

20. Failure of the Campaign: The Army Disbanded.—Now there was great suffering. The supply of provisions was almost exhausted; the pack-horses were worn out; there were no tents, and the rain descended in torrents. It was a pitiable condition indeed, and the only hope now was to transport the ammunition and remaining equipment by water. Major Lewis set the axemen to making canoes, while several companies marched down the river about fifteen miles and encamped near the present Wharncliffe. Between these two encampments were the rapids of Tug river, long known as the "Roughs of Tug," the greatest *tugging place* on that river. Here the canoes were overturned, the ammunition and some of the arms lost. In addition, the men were starving, so that, after a few young men had proceeded as far as the present town of Devon, Mingo county,—the farthest western point reached,—

the object of the expedition was abandoned; the army practically disbanded; and the men returned to their homes, after a march of sixty-one miles over the soil of West Virginia.

21. Massacre at Fort Seybert.—Fort Seybert was a frontier post which stood twelve miles northeast of Franklin, the present seat of justice of Pendleton county. Like other structures of its kind, it was a place of refuge for the settlers when threatened by a



FORT SEYBERT.

savage foe. In May, 1758, when between thirty and forty persons were within the enclosure, it was attacked by a body of Shawnees. Finding neither threats nor bullets of any avail, the cunning savages resorted to strategy, and that, too, with most fatal success. They declared to the inmates that if they surrendered the fort their lives should be spared; but if not

the siege would be continued until every one within should perish. This promise of safety lured the unfortunate victims and they yielded quiet possession of the fort. Perfidious wretches! What cared they for promises? Of the number who surrendered, all except eleven, were at once put to death.

22. The French Driven from the Ohio.—Virginia was actively engaged in defending her frontier, and the war was vigorously prosecuted to the northward. In 1758, another expedition against Fort Duquesne was planned. General John Forbes was in command and his force was collected at Raystown, now Bedford, Pennsylvania. Washington joined him with 1,600 Virginians, a large number of whom were West Virginia pioneers. In the march Washington asked that the advance be given to the Virginians and it was done. The French abandoned the fort and when the English army arrived, it was a mass of smouldering ruins, but it was speedily rebuilt and named Fort Pitt.

23. The French Power Broken.—French Supremacy ceased in the Valley of the Ohio. The following year, Niagara, Crown Point and Quebec surrendered to the English. The treaty of Fontainebleau, in November 1762, put an end to the war. The domination and power of France ceased on this continent, and no traces of her lost sovereignty exist, save in a few names she has left on the prominent rivers and land-marks, and in the leaden plates, which inscribed in her language and asserting her claims, still lie buried on the banks of the Ohio.

24. Pontiac's Conspiracy.—The French army was gone, but the Indians continued the war on the border for more than a year. Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, formed a conspiracy, which, if it had been carried out in detail, would have driven the English from every frontier post. The first settlement was made in the Greenbrier Valley in 1761, when Archibald Clendenin, Frederick See, Fetty Yolcom and others, established themselves in what is now Greenbrier county. Here they were attacked by the Indians in 1763 and the settlement entirely destroyed. The wife of Archibald Clendenin was taken prisoner but afterward escaped and returned to civilization.

25. Romney and Shepherdstown: The Oldest Towns in the State.—Romney, the seat of justice of Hampshire county was laid out by Lord Fairfax, in November, 1762, on his lands, where 100 lots of half an acre each had been surveyed previously. It was so called from Romney, one of the Cinque Ports on the English Channel. Shepherdstown, then called Mecklenburg, was laid out a town in the same month and year, on forty acres of land, the property of Thomas Shepherd, in honor of whom the name of the town was afterward changed to Shepherdstown. In 1762, an Agricultural and Mechanical Fair—the first on the soil of West Virginia—was authorized by the General Assembly to be held annually, twice a year—in June and October—at Mecklenburg, “for the sale and vending of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares and merchandise.”